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the innermost scarcely exceeding the vaginula, with a broad subvaginal base and a linguulate, very obtuse apex. Inflorescence monœcious, male flower on a short stalk.

A MOSS NEW TO THE UNITED STATES.—*Pilotrichum undulatum*, Beauv., a West Indian moss. occurs, in a small collection of plants made recently near Fort Reid, on the upper St. Johns, Florida, by Miss E. S. Boyd. The specimens, though scanty, are in fruit. The moss has a general resemblance to small specimens of *Nectera penata*, but the leaves are very inequilateral, and strongly nerved more than half way; and the perichæatial leaves, are peculiar, the lower ones ovate-acuminate with squarrose tips, and the upper ones narrowly linear, very slender, and overtopping the capsule. With it were also *Pilotrichum cymtifolium*, Sull., *Leucobryum minus*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, a large sterile *Fissidens*, and the red Louisiana lichen, *Chiodecton rubro-cinctus*, Nylander.—DANIEL C. EATON, New Haven, March 29, 1877.

BOTANICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY ASA GRAY, *Proc. Amer. Acad.*, Vol. 12. December, 1876.—This contribution to North American Botany is one full of interest. The list of new species is large and principally western, though there is quite a representation from the south. The pamphlet also contains two fine plates, one of *Arctomecon Californicum*, Torr., and the other of a new genus and species *Canbya candida*, Parry. Then follows a description of the new genus dedicated by Dr. Parry to Mr. Wm. M. Canby and a reconstruction of the very rare genus *Arctomecon*, Torr. These genera belong to the order *Papaveraceæ* and are both very peculiar in the persistency of the corolla. The new genus was discovered in S. E. California by a botanical party, consisting of Doctors Palmer and Parry and Mr. Lemmon, May 18, 1876. The new species are supplied by various parties, Rev. E. L. Greene, T. S. Brandegee, Dr. Parry, Dr. Rothrock, and Powell's Expedition of 1875, being the principal contributors. Of course the numbers of the *Astragali* are increased in this case by an addition of seven species and two varieties. The proportions this genus is beginning to assume as our western territory is becoming more thoroughly explored is something startling. A new *Lespedeza* is described, having been found in Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

The relations of *Clethra* and *Pyrola* are considered and rather than break up the original *Ericaceæ* into separate orders, as has been done by DeCandolle and other European botanists, Dr. Gray combines *Clethra* and the tribe *Pyroleæ* into the third sub-order, *Pyrolinæ*. The section *Steironema*, Raf. of *Lysimachia* is restored to generic rank and hence the species of N. United States are as follows:

Steironema ciliatum, Gr.—*Lysimachia ciliata*, L.

S. radicans Gr.—*L. radicans*, Hook.

S. lanceolatum, Gr.—*L. lanceolata*, Walt.

S. longifolium, Gr.—*L. longifolia*, Pursh.

The genus *Asclepias* and its allies are rearranged in the following genera; *Podotigma*, Ell., *Anantherix*, Nutt. (§ 2 of *Acerates* in Gray's Man., 5th Ed.), *Asclepiodora*, Gr. (containing *Acerates paniculata*, Decaisne.), *Asclepias*, L., *Acerates*, Ell., *Schizonotus*, Gr. (containing *Gomphocarpus purpurascens*, Gray, Bot. Calif.), and *Gomphocarpus*, R. Br. A key is also given to the North American species of the genus *Asclepias*. Dr. Gray also gives a conspectus of the confused and difficult genus *Gonolobus*, Michx., with the sections *Dictyolobus*, *Eugonolobus* and *Chthumalia*, the last being reduced from generic rank.—J. M. C.

ON EXCRESCENCES AND EXCENTRIC WOOD GROWTHS IN THE TRUNKS OF TREES.—This is the subject of a communication of Mr. Thomas Meehan to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, December 19, 1876, and appears in the Proceedings, Part III, of that year. The strange excrescences found in so many of our trees have often been the causes of no small curiosity in regard to the cause of their formation. Till very lately these monstrous growths have been referred to insects as their origin. Mr. Meehan calls attention to the fact that these excrescences were often of a uniform